

PUBLIC NOTICE

**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

Public Notice/Application No.: 2003-00593-DE

Comment Period: December 15, 2003 through January 13, 2004

Applicant

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Co-Applicant

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Agent

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Location

The project is located near the town of Maricopa, adjacent to the intersection of Maricopa Road/State Route 347 and the Maricopa/Casa Grande Highway, in the Santa Rosa Wash within Sections 26 & 27, T4S, R3E, Maricopa, Pinal County, Arizona.

Activity

To develop a single-family residential development known as Maricopa Groves, consisting of 1,375 units on approximately 392 acres, involving the widening and bank stabilization of Santa Rosa Wash. For more information, see page 3 of this notice and attached drawings.

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for the activity described herein and shown on the attached drawing(s). Interested parties are invited to provide their views on the proposed work, which will become a part of the record and will be considered in the decision. This permit application will be issued or denied under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

Comments can be e-mailed to daisy.eldridge@usace.army.mil or mailed to:

**U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTENTION: Regulatory Branch (2003-00593-DE)
3636 North Central Avenue, Suite 900
Phoenix, Arizona 85012-1939**

Evaluation Factors

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Factors that will be considered include conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, if the proposal would discharge dredged or fill material, the evaluation of the activity will include application of the EPA Guidelines (40 CFR 230) as required by Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, cumulative impacts, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Preliminary Review of Selected Factors

EIS Determination- A preliminary determination has been made that an environmental impact statement is not required for the proposed work.

Water Quality- The applicant will be required to obtain water quality certification, under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and/or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. For any proposed activity on Tribal land that is subject to Section 404 jurisdiction, the applicant will be required to obtain water quality certification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. For any proposed activity on land other than Tribal land that is subject to Section 404 jurisdiction, the applicant will be required to obtain water quality certification from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires that any applicant for an individual Section 404 permit provide proof of water quality certification to the Corps of Engineers.

Cultural Resources- The latest version of the National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and this site is not listed. SWCA conducted a records search of previous archaeological surveys that have been conducted in the project area. The records search revealed seven previous surveys had been conducted, and three archaeological sites had been located within a half-mile radius of the proposed project area, but outside of the proposed project area. The proposed project area was surveyed for cultural resources by SWCA January 2-3, 2002 and reported in *An Archaeological Survey of 392 Acres for the Maricopa Grove Channel Improvement Project, Maricopa, Pinal County, Arizona*, January 2003. Eight isolated artifact occurrences were recorded during the survey of this parcel; no other archaeological resources were observed. This report concluded that no further work is necessary since no known significant archaeological resources are likely to be adversely affected.

On November 18, 2003 an additional 2.3 acres that was omitted from the original survey area was surveyed for cultural resources by SWCA, and reported as an addendum to *An Archaeological Survey of 392 Acres for the Maricopa Grove Channel Improvement Project, Maricopa, Pinal County, Arizona*, January 2003. No historic

or prehistoric cultural materials or sites were identified during the survey of the additional 2.3 acres. This addendum concluded that no further work is necessary since no known sites or cultural materials were identified.

This review constitutes the extent of cultural resources investigations by the District Engineer, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources.

Endangered Species- Preliminary determinations indicate that the proposed activity would not affect federally-listed endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat. Therefore, formal consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act does not appear to be required at this time.

Public Hearing- Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearing shall state with particularity the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Proposed Activity for Which a Permit is Required

The purpose of the proposed project is to develop a single-family residential development and provide for improved storm water conveyance on the subject parcel.

On-Site: The proposed activity for which a permit is required would include the dredging of Santa Rosa Wash that would widen the wash from an average width of approximately 36 feet to 200 feet, creating a level, sandy wash bottom and uniform channel profile consistent with other work performed in this wash outside of the project area. In addition, due to the highly erodible soil of the project area, proposed activities include the installation of various types of erosion protection materials along the widened wash channel banks. These activities would permanently impact the entire jurisdictional area of the wash, approximately 4.11 acres.

Off-Site: The proposed activity for which a permit is required is located immediately downstream of the project area within the Santa Rosa Wash. Approximately 350 feet of the Santa Rosa Wash (between the Maricopa Groves project area and the Maricopa/Casa Grande Highway bridge), located on Pinal County-maintained land, would be widened from an average width of approximately 36 feet to 200 feet, creating a level, sandy wash bottom and uniform channel profile consistent with other work performed in this wash outside of the project area. Impacts to this section would also include the placement of rip rap near the south project boundary to prevent scouring in transitional areas around the bridge abutments. The permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters in this section of the channel would be approximately 0.29 acre.

Additional Project Information

The project area is very flat with few topographic features, the majority of it being agricultural land. Elevations within the project area range from approximately 1,175 to 1,188 feet above mean sea level. The project area is located in the Lower Colorado River Valley subdivision of the Sonoran desertscrub biotic community, and consists of disturbed native desert habitat, fallow agricultural fields, and an abandoned pecan grove. Santa Rosa Wash, a man-made channel, is located within the eastern portion of the project area. There are no riparian areas, wetlands or special aquatic sites located within the project area.

Dominant plants found in the project area are typical of disturbed Sonoran desertscrub habitat and include Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), Asian mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*), fingergrass (*Chloris* sp.), sandmat (*Chamaesyce* sp.), and desert globemallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*). Also within the project area, found primarily along the banks of and within Santa Rosa Wash are salt cedar (*Tamarix* sp.), desert broom (*Baccharis sarothroides*), common

cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*), and singlewhorl burrobrush (*Hymenoclea monogyra*).

Proposed Special Conditions

Special Conditions are currently being developed.

The Applicant and Co-Applicant are currently developing a mitigation proposal to compensate for the loss of 4.40 acres of Section 404 jurisdictional waters.

For additional information please call Daisy Eldridge at (602) 640-5385 x 268. This public notice is issued by the Chief, Regulatory Branch.



6548-076

FIGURE 3

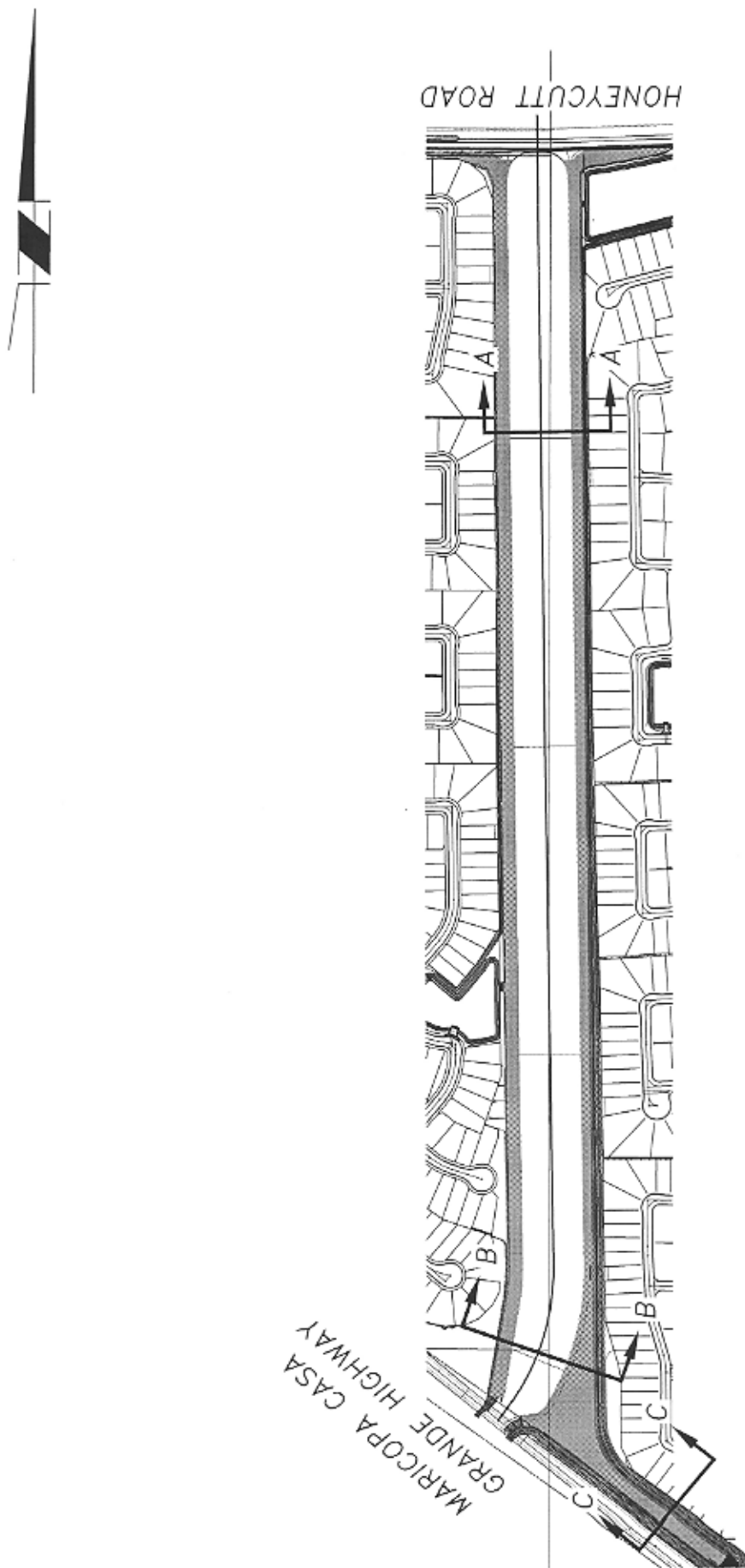
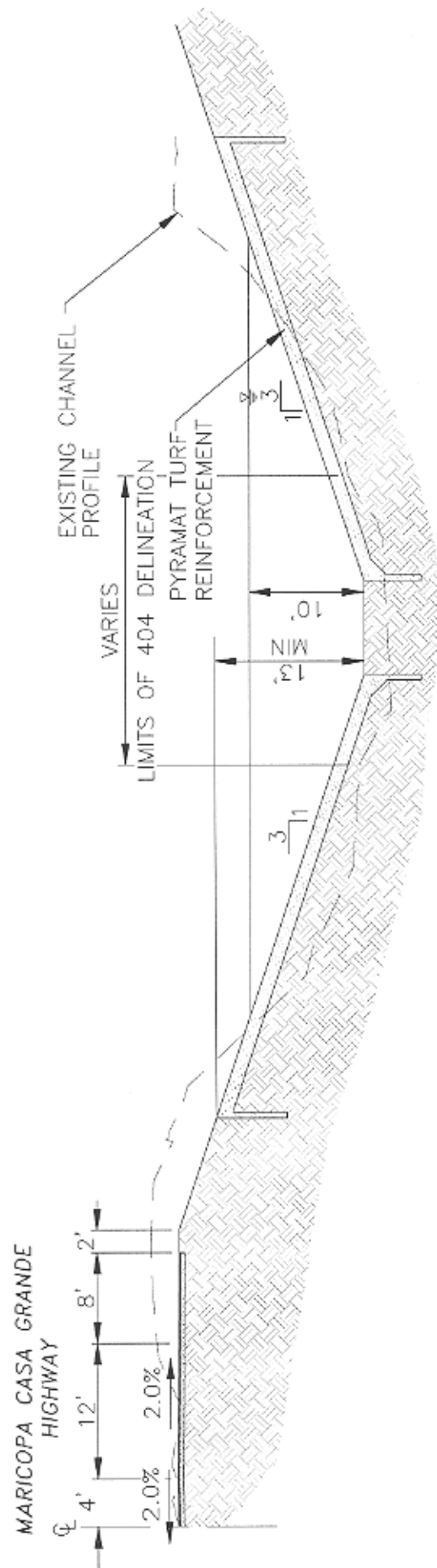


Diagram illustrating the cross-section of a channel with reinforcement and profile details. The diagram shows a channel bed with reinforcement layers and a profile line. Key dimensions and labels include:

- Channel Width:** 278'
- Channel Depth:** 200'
- Reinforcement Layers:** PYRAMAT TURF REINFORCEMENT (indicated by dashed lines).
- Profile Line:** EXISTING CHANNEL PROFILE (indicated by a solid line).
- Reinforcement Thicknesses:** 1, 3, 1, 3 (from top to bottom).
- Channel Bed Slope:** 10' (horizontal) to 13' (vertical).
- Channel Bed Material:** VARIES (indicated by a dashed line).
- Channel Bed Delineation:** LIMITS OF 404 DELINEATION (indicated by a dashed line).

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FIGURE 4-C



SECTION C-C
MARICOPA CASA GRANDE HIGHWAY
NTS

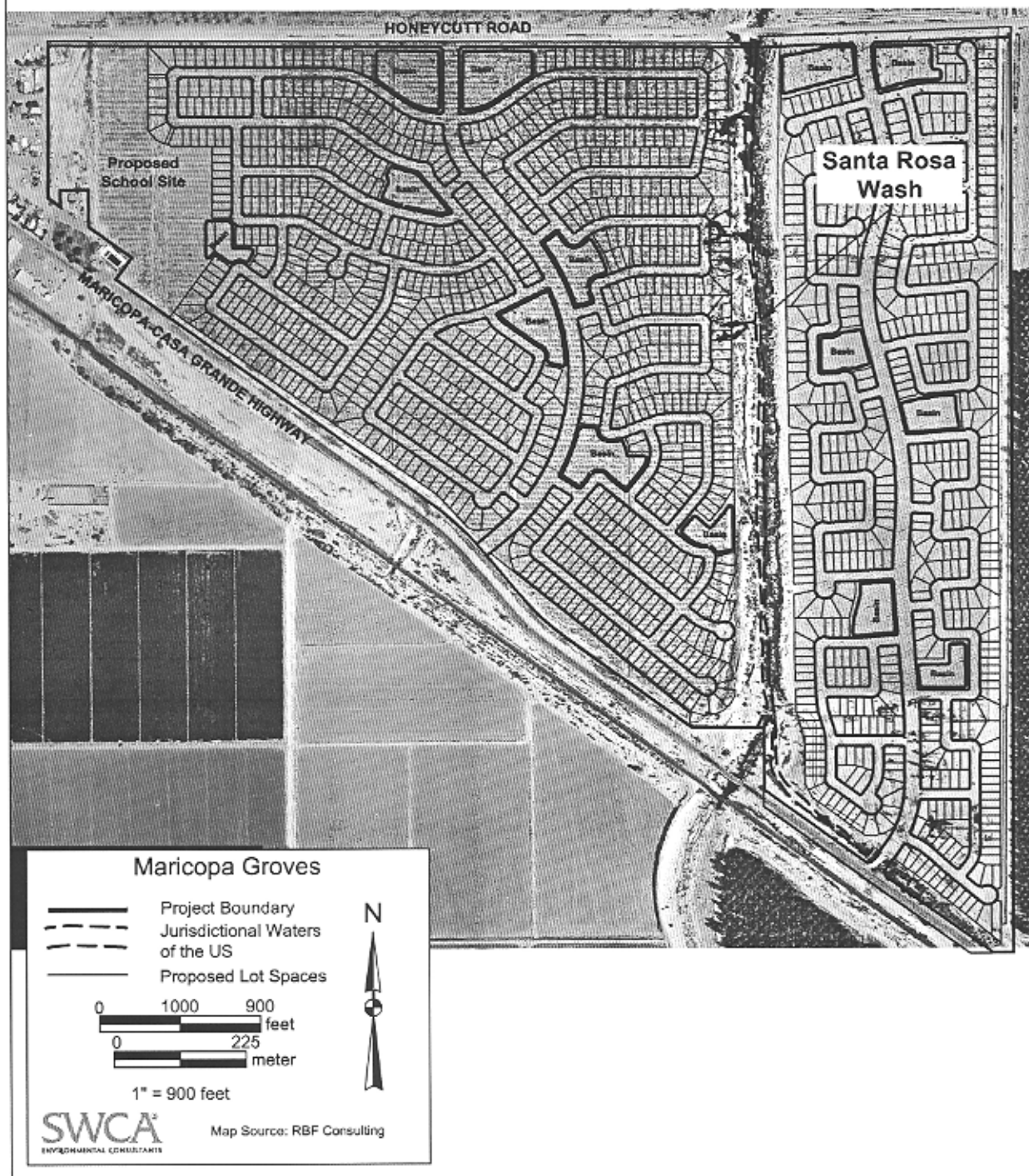


Figure 5. Proposed Project Activities

FIGURE 6

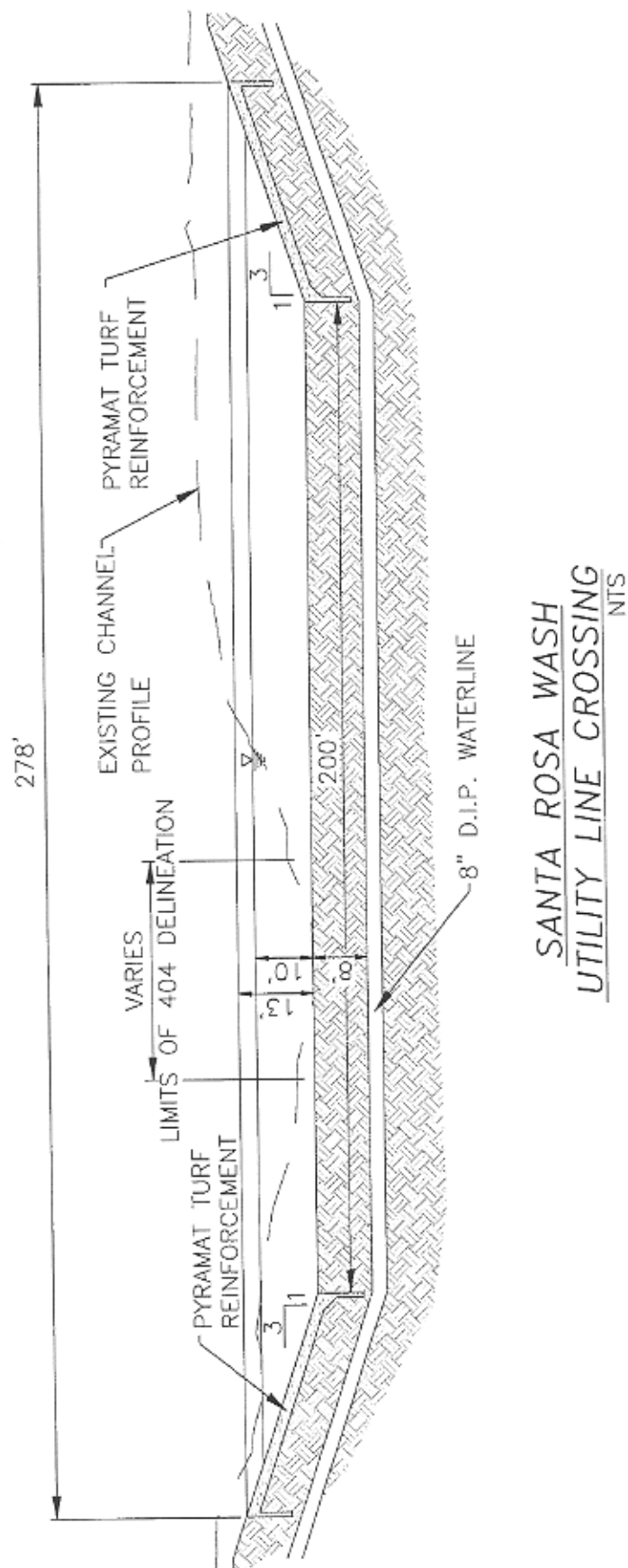
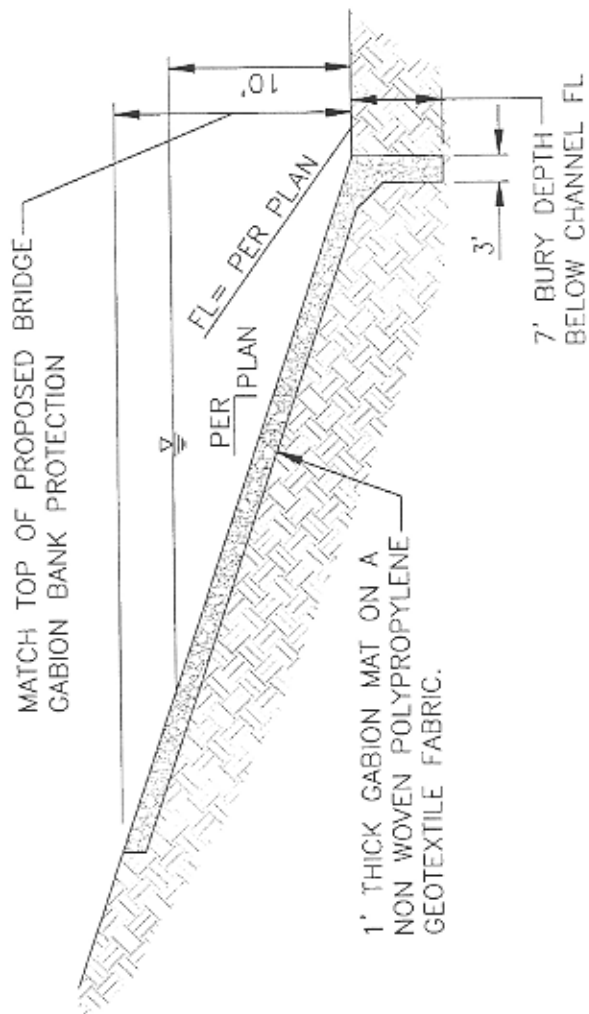


FIGURE 7



CROSS SECTION OF GABION BANK PROTECTION
NTS